

The Afghanistan Engineering Support Program assembled this quarterly report. It is an approved, official USAID document. Budget information contained herein is for illustrative purposes. All policy, personal, financial, and procurement sensitive information has been removed. Additional information on the report can be obtained from Firouz Rooyani, Tetra Tech Sr. VP International Operations, (703) 387-2151.



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AFGHANISTAN

ENGINEERING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Contract No. EDH-I-00-08-00027-00

Task Order No. 1

Fiscal Year 2015 Third Quarter Report



July 9, 2015

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development.
It was prepared by Tetra Tech, Inc.

**This report was prepared for the United States Agency for International Development,
Contract No. EDH-I-00-08-00027-00, Task Order 01, Afghanistan Engineering Support
Program.**

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July 9, 2015

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Office of Economic Growth and Infrastructure (OEGI)
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Kabul, Afghanistan

**Re: Contract No. EDH-I-00-08-00027-00 / Task Order No. 1
Afghanistan Engineering Support Program (AESP)
Year 6 Third Quarter Report for FY2015**

Dear [REDACTED]

Tetra Tech is pleased to submit this Third Quarter (Q3) Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, as provided in section C.5, "Deliverables," paragraph D of the above referenced Task Order. The FY2015 Q3 report covers the period of April 1, 2015, 2015 through June 30, 2015 for Year 6 of the project.

AESP was scheduled to close at the end of Year 5. Late in year 5, the project was extended one year, which required a complete reestablishment of the demobilized staff. During this quarter, Tetra Tech added an expat Project Controls Engineer as well as replacing a vacated expat Electrical Engineer Position. Currently, all expat positions are filled in accordance with the existing LOE. During the latter part of this quarter, Tetra Tech was tasked with a new scope and direction to provide construction management and QC services for the PTEC programs. This new and exciting direction will require a significant increase to our existing staff and infrastructure, as well as a commensurate change to the LOE.

As we continue to work through Year 6 of the Afghanistan Engineering Support Program, it is clear that the emphasis is moving away from design, and is focusing on implementation. Tetra Tech looks forward to being an integral part of the implementation process by providing Quality Assurance (QA), Quality Control (QC), and Construction Management (CM) services for PTEC projects. In particular, the implementation of the [REDACTED] NEPS-SEPS Connector between Kabul and Kandahar will be an impressive achievement for both USAID Afghanistan and AESP.

We look forward to continuing our support of the USAID OEGI mission, and to strengthening our partnership while building a brighter future for Afghanistan. Please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or comments regarding this report.

Respectfully,
Tetra Tech, Inc.

[REDACTED]

Acting Chief of Party (AESP)
For [REDACTED]
Chief of Party (AESP)

AFGHANISTAN ENGINEERING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Contract No. EDH-I-00-08-00027-00
Task Order No. 1

Fiscal Year 2015 Third Quarter Report
Revision 0

July 09, 2015

DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Tetra Tech (Tt) Afghanistan Engineering Support Program (AESP) provides planning, design, engineering, and technical oversight support to Afghanistan through collaboration and coordination with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Afghanistan Office of Economic Growth and Infrastructure (OEGI). Through AESP work, Tt contributes to local national capacity building by mentoring and providing international caliber experience to our staff and partners. Tt AESP performs activities that complement and reinforce the activities and engineering expertise of USAID OEGI staff in the following sectors: Energy, Transportation, Vertical Structures, Water, and Water Sanitation.

Tt AESP consists of a Kabul-based core of expatriate engineering professionals leading a competent staff of local Afghan engineers and support professionals. Support professionals include home office, or “reachback”, support from highly-qualified US-based staff. Our local team continues to display adaptability, mobility, and responsiveness to the needs of USAID.

- Activity Start Date: November 9, 2009
- Activity End Date: November 8, 2015
- Prime Implementing Partner: Tetra Tech
- Teaming Partners/Sub-awardees: Power Engineers, GardaWorld, USACC, SMART Engineers
- Geographic Coverage: Afghanistan, See Figure 1 below

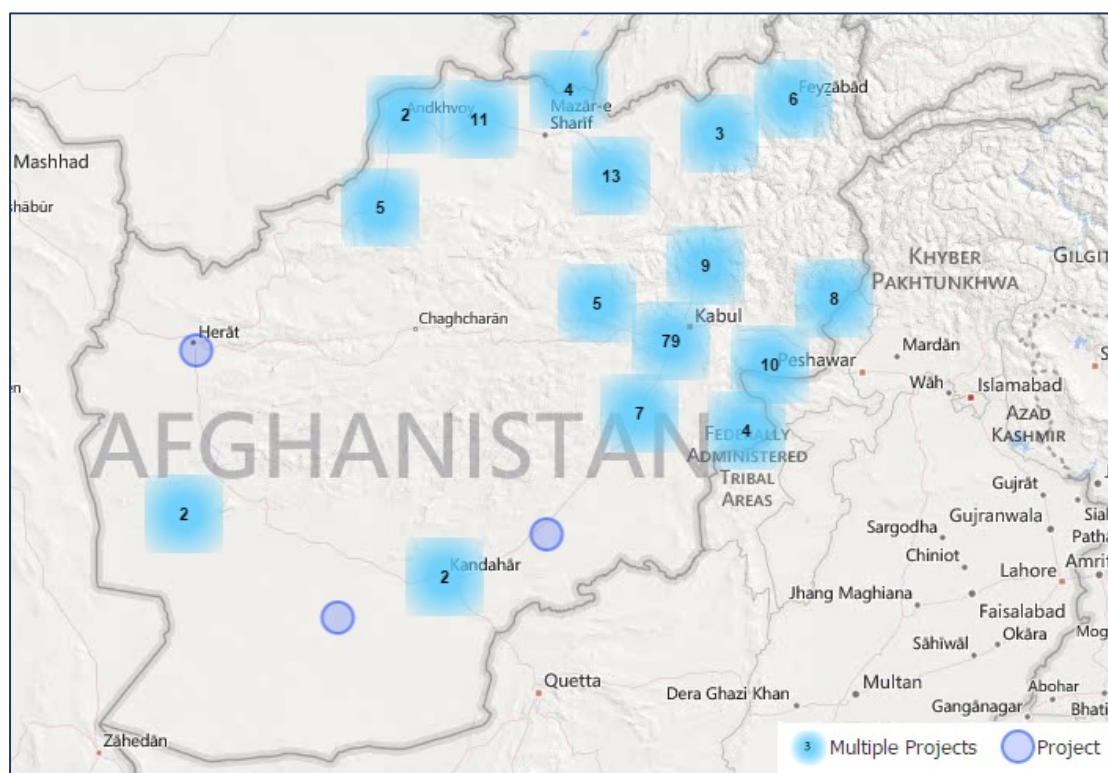


Figure 1 2009 – 2015 Tt AESP Project Locations¹

¹ Map Source: Tt AESP’s Afghan Info Reporting Site

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the period from April 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015. During this period, Tt AESP submitted 129 deliverables. Key deliverables this quarter included three Request for Proposals (RFPs): the transmission line for SEPS Completion, the substations for SEPS Completion, and the substation at the Salang Tunnel. The combined RFPs will exceed [REDACTED]. Other important deliverables included the Quality Assurance (QA) Plan and continued work on the Quality Assurance Technical Manual. These plans form the foundation of AESP's QA services which, going forward, will comprise the majority of AESP's work.

During this quarter, AESP began fulfilling its role as QA monitor for the Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity (PTEC) Program. This role required review of schedules, plans, progress, factory acceptance testing, and providing 13 reports to USAID which included non-compliance issues, recommendations, and audits.

Highlights of the quarter within each sector, and technical support and oversight services noted below, exemplify AESP's diverse support of the USAID OEGI mission in Afghanistan.

Summary of Results for the Reporting Period and Key Accomplishments

Energy Sector

A leading challenge for the development of Afghanistan is to provide reliable power to all of Afghanistan. Increased access to cost-effective electricity and expansion of the electrical transmission grid is a practical way to improve the lives of Afghanistan's citizens. This priority is reflected in Tt AESP's work as the majority of efforts are directed towards supporting USAID OEGI through energy related work orders.

A priority for USAID OEGI, has been focusing on the PTEC Program. A major component of PTEC and the main focus of AESP this quarter has been connection of the Northeast Power System (NEPS) to the Southeast Power System (SEPS). The NEPS-SEPS Connector will create a 200kV high voltage backbone and connect Afghanistan to secure power from its neighbors to the North. When complete, the total cost for construction of the NEPS-SEPS Connector and attendant substations will equal approximately [REDACTED].

AESP currently has four active long term work orders related to the design and construction of the NEPS and SEPS electrical systems, the first two being WO-LT-0048 and WO-LT-0063 which include designs for the new 220 kV transmission lines and substations from Arghandi to Kandahar East and the Salang Tunnel Substation, respectively. For both work orders, USAID requested a design change to create consistency amongst Afghanistan's vector group. Therefore, AESP provided design changes for both WO-LT-0048 and 0063 which were incorporated into the technical section 6s. WO-LT-0063's RFPs were withdrawn and AESP repackaged the bids into one RFP, including requested design changes. The repackaged bid is currently undergoing on-budget review by DABS and USAID.

Two other ongoing work orders related to the NEPS-SEPS connector are WO-LT-0090 and WO-LT-0091. LT-0090 provides Quality Assurance services for PTEC implementation activities. This quarter, Tt has begun monitoring and evaluating the construction of transmission lines and substations traversing from Arghandi to Ghazni. The second work order is WO-LT-0091: SEPS Completion which prepares electrical designs necessary for completion of SEPS in Kandahar and Helmand Provinces. This quarter, AESP submitted a complete RFP for the transmission portion of this work order. Tt also continued to prepare the 100% design sections for the Substations section. A complete RFP for the substations will be completed early next quarter.

Transportation

Tt AESP had one active transportation work order this quarter dealing with design and submittal reviews, technical analyses, and design plans. Under long term work order 0084, Tt AESP continued its review of construction submittals for the Gardez to Khost Road Phase IV project during this quarter. In addition to the review of technical construction submittals, Tt also participated in biweekly meetings

with USAID, MECC, and IRD-EQUALS to evaluate and expedite GK Road construction progress and resolve any issues related to the roadway and bridge construction or MECC's technical submittals.

Vertical Structures

This quarter AESP had two active work orders in the Vertical Structures Sector: long term work orders 0082 and 0089. Under WO-LT-0082, AESP provides on-call engineering services for USAID vertical structure projects. WO-LT-0089 was cancelled this quarter. This quarter no services were requested in this sector. However, Tt's vertical structures civil engineers provided support on electrical and transportation work orders as needed, especially on the GK road project and QA monitoring and Evaluation.

Water Resources

USAID did not request any work orders related to Water Resources and Sanitation this quarter. As always, AESP is ready to respond should any services be needed in this sector.

Technical Support and Oversight

Technical Support and Oversight generally are work orders that allow AESP to fill gaps in USAID programming as they arise. This also includes work orders that do not fit under specified categories defined in the original AESP Task Order or that cross over multiple sectors. Technical Support and Oversight has allowed AESP to showcase its flexibility, mobility, depth of activities, and relevance to the USAID Afghanistan mission and its commitment to capacity building and gender equality.

This quarter, AESP worked on three long term Technical Support work orders. Two of the three work orders, LT-0065 and LT-0086, remained open on a per request basis to provide media assistance to USAID activities and claims assistance that may arise on the USAID Kajaki Dam project. Although available, USAID did not request any support under these work orders during this quarter.

The Afghan Women Internship Program under long term work order 0042 exemplifies AESP's commitment to capacity building and gender equality. The Afghan Women Internship Program supports the technical and professional development of female students in their fourth year of engineering. Under the direct supervision and mentorship of Tt professional expats and local professional staff, the program provides: opportunities for practical training, real world engineering experiences, and strengthened communication skills.

This quarter, interns had on-the-job training, shadowed Tt ongoing projects, and received practical and software training based on their curriculum. Practical training this quarter included concrete and soil training. The purpose was to physically demonstrate theories learned in school with real materials. The interns were also enthusiastic for their site visit to see the reconstruction at Camp Eggers. A variety of activities gives the women diverse experiences to be competitive and prepared for when they enter the job market.

Capacity Building

Tetra Tech AESP is dedicated to USAID's mission of capacity building. Since the inception of this contract, Tt AESP has focused on training AESP's local staff to operate at internationally accepted levels, not only in their chosen professions, but also in cross-discipline professional skills such as: communication, public speaking, teamwork, and critical thinking. Due to Tt's commitment to capacity building, the constitution of the staff has gradually shifted from a mostly expatriate staff (approximately 90%) to a highly capable local national staff which currently comprises approximately 80% of Tt's employees. Tt's management staff holds weekly "all hands meetings" for capacity building for training in teamwork, leadership, public speaking, and communication. Accordingly, Tt's professionals have taken a more active role in growing DABS' abilities by providing advice in the bid opening and evaluation process this quarter.

Constraints and Critical Issues

Although security concerns did not prevent Tetra Tech AESP from completing its mission this quarter, security remains a significant concern. AESP has seen and will continue to see an increased number of

teams going into the field to fulfill QA auditing activities, often to areas where security is a major issue. Tetra Tech has increased security efforts through more extensive daily briefings and closer involvement of Tt's Security Team in logistical planning. Tetra Tech will continue to respond to the rapidly changing security situation to ensure the safety of our personnel.

Conference facilities at the Tt Villa remained available as a practical option for USAID to hold business meetings with other implementing partners and Afghanistan stakeholders. Using the Tt Villa facilities mitigates the security risks associated with travel around Kabul during periods of unpredictable insurgent activity. Tt AESP will continue to provide hosting capabilities for USAID meetings as long as the project is active.

Summary

As described above, Tt AESP has provided USAID OEGI with diverse engineering expertise and dynamic support for USAID goals and objectives throughout the third quarter of contract Year 6. The broad diversity of the Tt AESP program is evident in the variety of services and deliverables submitted to USAID OEGI this quarter. Looking forward, Tt AESP will remain responsive, mobile, and relevant in the remaining quarters of FY2015. Tetra Tech will continue to work for orders issued by USAID OEGI that provide needed technical services, capacity building, and gender equality opportunities in Afghanistan.

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1.0 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

1.1 KEY ACTIVITIES ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE QUARTER

Tt AESP is responsible for identifying, planning, designing, and providing technical support and oversight of USAID OEGI infrastructure projects and related engineering activities. This is done in accordance with the basic USAID OEGI Architect and Engineer (A&E) IQC contract statement of work, which creates work orders to track individual projects. Work orders fall into one of two categories: administrative or long-term. Administrative work orders are defined as tasks requiring a total level of effort (LOE) less than or equal to 18 business days (144 work hours). Long-term work orders are defined as activities requiring a total LOE exceeding 18 business days. For each long-term work order, Tt AESP prepares and submits a Scope of Work (SOW) and a Rough Order of Magnitude Cost Estimate (ROM). This quarter, USAID has requested that these planning documents be given the names of Work Plan (WP) and Estimated Budget (EB) respectively. Accordingly, new work orders now follow the updated naming standards.

Tt AESP supports USAID OEGI's mission throughout Afghanistan using both administrative and long term work orders. For tracking purposes, work orders are broken into one of the following sectors: Energy, Vertical Structures, Transportation, Water Resources, and Water and Sanitation, as stated in Tt AESP's IQC. If a work request falls outside the sectors above, it is classified as Technical Services. This quarter Tt AESP worked on 8 work orders in the Energy sector, 2 work orders in Vertical Structures, 1 Transportation work order, and 3 Technical Services work orders. Hence, the majority of AESP work orders and subsequent work were related to the energy sector for the third quarter of fiscal year 2015. Table 1.1 below describes the work order activities performed during the third quarter.

1.1.1.1 Table 1.1 Summary of Work Completed During the Third Quarter of FY 2015

Number	Work Order Title	Summary of Work Completed
WO-A-0099	SEPS Completion GFE Inventory	USAID requested the deployment of Tt staff to provide an inventory of equipment for SEPS completion. This work was shifted under WO-LT-0091 and the final technical memo closing this work order was submitted early this quarter.
WO-LT-0042	Afghan Women Internship Program	The year 2015 interns received trainings in: STAAD Pro, Adobe Photoshop, AutoCAD, MS Project, Epanet 2, Electrical Codes and Standards, Electrical Specifications, Concrete, Soil, Asphalt, IBC and Effective presentation skills. Interns completed concrete and soil labs and performed a site visit to Camp Eggers. Per the suggestion of USAID, Tt has created a Mentoring Program for the Interns; pairing interns with local and expat mentors. Interns have also begun shadowing Tt staff engineers.
WO-LT-0048 AMD 4	Qarabagh to Kandahar East Substations	USAID OEGI requested a SOW and ROM to create and deliver a technical section for the proposed substations in Qarabagh, Moqor/Gelan, Shah Joy, Qalat, and Kandahar East. The final technical sections were submitted last quarter. This quarter, Tt AESP provided technical responses to bidder's RFIs and assisted with bid evaluations.

WO-LT-0048 AMD 5	Transmission Line from Ghazni to Kandahar East	USAID OEGI requested a SOW and ROM to create and deliver a technical section for the proposed transmission lines from Qarabagh to Kandahar East. The final technical sections were submitted last quarter. This quarter, Tt AESP provided technical responses to bidder's RFIs and assisted DABS with bid evaluations.
WO-LT-0048 AMD 6	RPC At Kabul and Kandahar East	USAID OEGI requested a SOW and ROM to provide engineering support to the build out of the 220kV Northeast Power System (NEPS) to the Kandahar East electrical power distribution system. The work on this amendment was rolled into the Technical Section 6 for amendment 4 as an addendum. This quarter, Tt AESP provided technical responses for bidders' RFIs and assisted DABS with bid evaluations.
WO-LT-0048 AMD 8	Design Change for Substations from Sayedabad to Kandahar East	Tt received NTP on March 5, 2015 to make design changes to the existing drawings for the Substations from Sayedabad to Kandahar East. Changes to the existing drawings for the substations were executed and this work order was completed on June 19, 2015.
WO-LT-0059	NEPS System Protective Relay	USAID requested a SOW and ROM to deliver protective relaying coordination studies to key portions of Afghanistan's NEPS medium voltage and high voltage electrical grid. This work has continued to be on hold throughout this quarter.
WO-LT-0063 AMD 4	Salang Tunnel Substation Pre-Purchase Specs	Pre-Purchases no.1 and no. 2 were approved by USAID during previous quarters, however USAID decided to combine all RFPs from this work order's amendments into one. Therefore, the tasks for this amendment were completed this quarter.
WO-LT-0063 AMD 6	Salang Tunnel Substation Detailed Design	Salang Tunnel design and specifications have been incorporated into RFPs for advertising. These RFPs were put out to bid last quarter, and Tt has been answering RFIs this quarter. Additionally this quarter, the RFP has been withdrawn, per USAID request, and this WO has been put on hold.
WO-LT-0063 AMD 8	Salang Tunnel Substation Combined RFP and Transformer Vector Modification	USAID directed Tt to revise the designs, adapt Section 6, and combine all the RFPs into one. Tt received NTP on June 4, 2015 and Tt completed the task for the work order during this quarter. Also during this quarter, Tt submitted the Salang Tunnel substation combined RFP package that included: revised pricing sheets, design changes, revised drawings as result of scope changes, and a complete RFP package. These documents were submitted to USAID on June 21 and 23, 2015.
WO-LT-0065	Media Assistance	In the past, Tt had supported the USAID Office of Economic Growth and Infrastructure (OEGI) and the Development Outreach and Communication

		Office (DOC) under this work order. The Tt AESP Team has met with interviewees and captured interviews on video. The videos and further media assistance are available.
WO-LT-0070 AMD 2	Firefighting Analysis	Tt reviewed all documentation regarding the existing fire suppression systems installed at Tarakhil Thermal Power Plant including all available as-built drawings, design calculations, test results, inspection/maintenance reports for the automatic sprinkler and foam suppression systems. This work order was completed in the previous quarter and was closed by USAID during this quarter.
WO-LT-0070 AMD 4	Tarakhil Power Plant Power Block A, B and C Controls Repair	Tt received NTP for Tasks 1 & 2 on July 27, 2014. This work order remained open during this quarter.
WO-LT-0070 AMD 5	Tarakhil Power Plant Alternative Fuel Source Study	Per a USAID request, Tt wrote a fuel study for an alternative fuel source for the Tarakhil Power Plant. Tt submitted the final report on February 26, 2015. This work order was closed by USAID this quarter.
WO-LT-0070 AMD 6	Phoenix Support at Tarakhil	Tt was asked to provide technical assistance to Phoenix at the Tarakhil Power Plant. Tt submitted comments on a scope of work for water piping repair on May 24, 2015. Work is currently ongoing.
WO-LT-0070 AMD 7	Tarakhil Power Plant CMMS/SCADA Interface	Tt received a request from USAID to develop a SOW/ROM on October 07, 2014 for the growth of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) or Computerized Maintenance Management System. (CMMS) Interface at Tarakhil Power Plant. This work order was cancelled this quarter.
WO-LT-0082	Engineering Support for Vertical Structures	Tt received NTP on May 18, 2014 to provide engineering support for higher education projects. Activities under the work order are contingent on USAID forwarding assignments. This quarter, no requests for engineering support were submitted by USAID.
WO-LT-0083 AMD 2	Kandahar Area Design Optimization with Turbo Generators	Tt submitted a SOW/ROM on September 7, 2014. Tasks 1 and 2 are completed and Tt received NTP for Tasks 4 and 5 on March 2, 2015. Reports for the tasks 2, 3, and 5 were submitted on June 16, 2015.
WO-LT-0084	G-K Road Phase 4	Tt continues to support OEGI through the review of Contractor submittals for Phase IV of the GK roadway construction. Review of RFAs and attendance at bi-weekly review meetings have been ongoing through the quarter. To advance critical construction activities, the review meetings became a weekly occurrence beginning in March. Tt has

		reviewed more than 500 submittals to date, many of these are resubmittals of rejected RFAs.
WO-LT-0086	Kajaki Dam Claims	This work order gives assistance to USAID for any claims for Kajaki Dams. This quarter, USAID reviewed the SOW outline. This work order is currently on holding pending construction of Kajaki Dam.
WO-LT-0089	Gardez and Khair Kot Hospital Mechanical QA Services	The COR requested the development of a SOW and ROM on December 7, 2014 for CHEF Gardez and Khair Kot Hospital Mechanical QA services. This work order was cancelled as the tasks required were reduced and will likely be included in WO-LT-0090 or an upcoming administrative work order.
WO-LT-0090	NEPS-SEPS Interim QA Monitoring and Evaluation Service	The COR requested the development of a WP and EB for interim Quality Assurance services for various NEPS-SEPS projects. This quarter, It has started work on plan audits, FAT testing, scheduling oversight, and additional QA activities for the Argandhi-Ghazni project. Furthermore, It has submitted the QA Plan, 5 biweekly, and 3 monthly reports to USAID.
WO-LT-0091	SEPS Completion	A revised WP and EB for SEPS Completion were submitted on March 24, 2015. It AESP submitted a GFE inventory report on June 3, 2015. AESP has also submitted transmission line: technical sections, drawings, complete RFPs, pricing sheets, and project schedules for bidding purposes. The Substations RFP was submitted without the Technical sections which will be submitted early next quarter.

1.2 KEY ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

Table 1.2 below describes the activities planned for the third quarter. Actual work performed will be described in detail in the Annual Report.

1.2.1.1 Table 1.2 Summary of Work Planned for the Fourth Quarter of FY 2015

Number	Work Order Title	Summary of Work Planned
WO-LT-0042	Afghan Women Internship Program	The internship program will continue with additional training and shadowing opportunities. Amendment 4 of the WO will continue throughout the 2015 academic year.
WO-LT-0048 AMD 4	Qarabagh to Kandahar East Substations	The bid period is currently on-going with an expected bid opening of July 12, 2015. Tetra Tech will assist DABS in the bid evaluation and selection.
WO-LT-0048 AMD 5	Transmission Line from Ghazni to Kandahar East	The RFP has been cancelled and will be rebid. Tetra Tech will assist DABS in reissuing the RFP, answering RFIs, bid evaluation, and selection.

WO-LT-0063 AMD 6	Salang Tunnel Substation Detailed Design	The bid period is over for the RFP. Tetra Tech will assist DABS in the bid evaluation and selection.
WO-LT-0063 AMD 8	Salang Tunnel Combined RFP and Transformer Design Change	Tt will answer any technical RFIs from potential bidders during the fourth quarter.
WO-LT-0065	Media Assistance	Tetra Tech will continue to provide media assistance to USAID as the need arises.
WO-LT-0070	Tarakhil Power Plant Water Piping System	Tetra Tech will continue to assist with technical elements of the piping repair for the Tarakhil Power Plant.
WO-LT-0070 AMD 6	Phoenix Support at Tarakhil Power Plant	Tetra Tech will continue to assist Phoenix with general tasks regarding the operation, maintenance, and upgrades to the Tarakhil Power Plant.
WO-LT-0082	Engineering Support for Vertical Structures	Tetra Tech will continue to provide support to USAID under this work order as new assignments are identified.
WO-LT-0083 AMD 2	Kandahar Area Design Optimization with Turbo Generators	Tetra Tech will assist with tasks 6 and 7 if this work is put out to bid in the upcoming quarter.
WO-LT-0084	G-K Road Phase 4	Tetra Tech will continue to provide drawing and submittal reviews for this work order during the fourth quarter.
WO-LT-0086	Kajaki Dam Claims	Tetra Tech will provide assistance to USAID for any claims on the Kajaki Dam project, if necessary.
WO-LT-0090	NEPS-SEPS Interim QA Monitoring and Evaluation Service	AESP will continue to provide QA oversight for the implementation of the PTEC Projects. Biweekly and monthly QA reports will be submitted. Considerable effort will be put into planning and starting AMD 1 of this work order.
WO-LT-0091	SEPS Completion	Tetra Tech will submit the technical section 6 for the SEPS completion substations and answer any Technical RFIs during the fourth quarter.

1.3 LESSONS LEARNED

In accordance with the contract, AESP submits an evaluation form after the completion of all work orders in order to obtain feedback to help improve performance on future work orders for this project. This quarter, 14 evaluations and 2 evaluation appeals have been requested from USAID. At the end of the third quarter, 12 completed evaluations and 2 appeals have been returned. Out of the 14 returned evaluations, one was exceptional, 4 were above average, and 7 received satisfactory ratings. Two evaluations marked as marginal and unsatisfactory will be appealed. These evaluations are the core information that Tt uses to assess performance and improve quality in the future. From feedback received and internal assessment, AESP became aware of the need to improve on meeting deadlines and internal and external capacity building. Therefore, AESP has taken active steps to meet the deadlines of the deliverables. These efforts have been noted by USAID, but AESP will continue to improve in this area. Furthermore, AESP is continually working under the direction of USAID to include more capacity building with external partners. This quarter, AESP excelled in the areas of writing comprehensive, well researched reports and will continue to maintain this standard going forward.

1.3.1 Evaluations/Assessments/Audits

On March 9, 2015 Tt AESP received notification of an upcoming audit for FY 2014 incurred costs. The audit is expected to begin during the next quarter.

2.0 COLLABORATION WITH GOA, OTHER DONORS, OR OTHER USAID PROJECTS

2.1 LINKS WITH RELEVANT GOA MINISTRIES

Tt AESP collaborated with DABS on numerous projects including the NEPS-SEPS connector, Salang Tunnel Substation, assessments, and the Tarakhil Thermal Power Plant. In addition, Tt AESP provided assistance to and coordination with DABS commercial contractors, GFA Consulting Limited, Phoenix, and KEC international contractor.

2.2 LINKS WITH OTHER DONOR AGENCIES

AESP continues to take direction from USAID while coordinating with other donor agencies. This quarter AESP is coordinating with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the SEPS completion project.

2.3 LINKS WITH OTHER USAID PROJECTS

No significant events or activities to report during the quarter.

3.0 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

3.1 PERSONNEL

There were several changes to key personnel in Tetra Tech during the third quarter. An expatriate Electrical Engineer resigned from the position and a new Electrical Engineer was mobilized. Also, an expatriate Project Controls Manager was hired to complete the increased LOE necessary for WO-LT-0090: QA Technical Services.

Tetra Tech's local national staff (LNs) during this quarter had one resignation. The financial analyst resigned from her position due to personal issues. The position was announced and the current AESP accountant was chosen and promoted as the best candidate. The position of accountant was filled by the second highest candidate, giving AESP an all-female finance department.

Also, several Tetra Tech AESP LNs received their annual performance evaluation in the month of April. Most of the LNs received annual raises based on their performance, up to 5%.

During this quarter, Tetra Tech continued a series of capacity building exercises. The exercises, which included both LN and Expatriate staff, focused on collaboration and efficient communication. These exercises will continue throughout next quarter.

Gender equality plays an important role in staff planning at AESP. During this quarter, Tt AESP maintained gender percentages of 62% Male and 38% Female employees. This shows a 2% increase in female staff compared to last quarter. Tt AESP will continue to support USAID's gender equality and female empowerment directive through the remainder of the task order.

3.2 ADAPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

No major adaptations were required this quarter. However, it is expected that with the ramping up of WO-LT-0090 in the coming quarters, occasions for increased capacity building opportunities with DABS will be created which will cause adaptations to the activity.

3.3 MODIFICATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

This quarter, AESP had no modifications or amendments to the contract.

4.0 SUCCESS STORIES

Following is Tetra Tech AESP's Success Story for FY2015 Third Quarter about the implementation of the ProjectWise Electronic Document Management System.



USAID
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CASE STUDY

Collaboration Out of Construction Chaos

USAID has adopted collaborative software to ensure quality in Afghanistan's Electrical Construction Projects



[Insert Photo Credit]

EDMS Users partake in an interactive EDMS Software training to learn how to use the technology to increase cooperation among stakeholders.

CHALLENGE One of USAID Afghanistan's primary goals has been to expand the energy grid to provide electricity to thousands of Afghans currently living without power. The solution has been the Power Transmission Expansion and Connectivity (PTEC) Program which constructs and expands electricity infrastructure throughout the country. Currently, the majority of design work has been completed and the projects are entering the bidding and construction phases. At least seven major projects will begin in the near future. Worth an estimated \$400,000,000, the projects will be implemented in some of the most dangerous and challenging construction environments in the world. Moreover, PTEC implementation will require cooperation with Afghan Government Ministries, construction contractors, construction managers, and QA and QC organizations. Creating a means for multiple stakeholders to collaborate is critical to successful project implementation.

INITIATIVE In order to promote collaboration and better project management amongst local parties, USAID has adopted an Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). The EDMS allows all stakeholders to collaborate on construction drawings, specifications, inspection reports, and PTEC related documents. This system effectively ensures that all parties are working with and have access to the same documents, while providing a wide range of tools for analyses and audits. These tools are used to improve the capacity of local implementers, who utilize the software to manage large construction projects. For the past four months, extensive planning and setup has taken place to create a space where once disjointed stakeholders can efficiently share information.

RESULTS USAID has completed the set-up of the entire EDMS System, allowing stakeholders to access a network of information. To date, 30 users have been trained and are using the software. Another 10 users are scheduled to be trained in the upcoming weeks. It is anticipated that with more projects entering the implementation phase, the number of users will more than double, allowing for increased cooperation, file sharing, and program analysis. Stakeholders will use EDMS to ensure that construction projects are implemented according to the upmost quality standards, while maintaining schedule and budget.

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